

# Centrally Speaking

A Cray Research Inc. Central Region Publication

Volume 2, Number 3

December 1986

open letter from

*Raul Lalar*

## NCAR Receives a CRAY X-MP/48

by Jim Martinez

I know that a lot of you were disappointed when we cancelled the Region Meeting scheduled for October 1986. Business and support needs kept many of you on site in June 1986, during the first scheduled Region Meeting in Durango. I've always looked forward to the meetings as important opportunities to renew old friendships, make new ones, share information and ideas and build team spirit. Meetings like these go a long way toward reinforcing the small group cohesiveness that is the backbone of Cray Research.

Given all these good reasons to have region meetings, there is another reality which precludes continuation of the kind of meetings we have had in the past. We feel that in order to fulfill our responsibilities to our customers and to Cray, we cannot hold a nontechnical meeting which does not contribute directly either to maintaining existing systems or to accomplishing the immediate operational programs.

In place of the old-style meetings will be district meetings, probably one day long and held in the city of a district office where Cray people from local sites can gather. The region and district management staff will use these opportunities to present business and technical briefings and provide a forum for questions and discussion on region and company issues and events. These meetings will also include time for meeting new people and socializing, but the focus will be specifically business in nature. A schedule of these 1987 district meetings will be published the first quarter of 1987.

I know you'll miss the old-style region meetings. I will too.



Duffy's Crane Service lowers Serial Number 217 into the basement of NCAR.

At 0800 hours on Monday, October 6, the installation of CRAY X-MP Serial Number 217 officially started. The orange Allied moving trucks had arrived in the Boulder area during the prior weekend and the crane had been spotted earlier in the morning.

The weather on delivery day was clear and warm. However, rain on the previous days made

it impossible to back the trucks up far enough to be placed where we had originally planned. The sod covered "road" leading to the airshaft through which the equipment would have to be lowered was too steep and slick for the heavily loaded trailers.

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## 10 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER

On Thursday, August 28, Central Region hosted a celebration honoring Los Alamos National Laboratory and the people who work there. As was mentioned in the Anniversary Issue of *Centrally Speaking* (Vol. 2, No. 2), Los Alamos became the Central Region's first customer when

they took delivery of the first CRAY system back in 1976. Since that time, Central Region has continued to enjoy a close working relationship with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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The equipment removed from the truck was loaded onto a rectangular "skip" which hung from the crane's hook. During the transfer, the skip had to be chained to the trailer to keep it from swaying. A professional crew of riggers from Duffy's Crane Service and their highly experienced crane operator made the delivery appear easy.

Throughout the long day that followed, the skip was raised and lowered into the airshaft delivering the new system and removing S/N 14 and its peripheral equipment for return to Chippewa Falls. Finally, as the sun slowly settled



Moving Serial Number 217 into place with "Old Reliable," Serial Number 3, in background.

behind the Continental Divide, the last DD-49 disk drive was removed from the skip and placed in its new home.

When the equipment reached the bottom of the airshaft, our mechanical crew, led by Ken Dahlke of the Install Department and aided by our own Larry Sjoberg, took over. In short order, they placed each piece of equipment and began reassembling the system. By about 2000 hours on Tuesday, October 4, the power and safety checks had been completed and the first set of diagnostics were up and running.

As a test of the machine's reliability, the operating system was brought up and run without incident for about 4.5 hours before any of the margin or shock testing was begun.

Only a few items have slowed this otherwise uneventful installation. Through the quick work of Larry Sjoberg, the install team, the site personnel and the cooperation we received from the folks in Chippewa and the region office, the install was completed as scheduled.

Our thanks go to the many people who assisted during this installation.

## 10 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER

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The celebration consisted of three separate events. First, a brief kickoff meeting was held at the University House in Los Alamos. This was highlighted by brief comments by some of the key people from Los Alamos and Cray who have been involved in this relationship from the beginning. They took this opportunity to reminisce about some of the activities and

experiences that have occurred over the past 10 years.

This was followed by an open house reception for all the Cray and DOE site team members in the Kiva Room at the Los Alamos Inn. This was complete with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments which provided a pleasant environment for socializing and remembering old times.

The final event was a dinner at the Eldorado

Hotel in Santa Fe for the original key players and some of the current Cray and Lab executives. Those at the dinner received specially made commemorative bookends displaying a CRAY-1 module and miniature CRAY X-MP and CRAY-2 replicas.

Overall the event was very positive and will hopefully be repeated in another 5 or 10 years.



Some of the original players: (left to right) John Rollwagen; Bill Spack, Associate C Division Leader; Bob Thorn, Laboratory Senior Advisor; Norm Morse, C Division Leader; Robert Walen.



(Left to right) Harold Agnew, Robert Ewald, and Bob Thorn.



Norm Morse holding CRAY-1 module bookend.



# THE CENTRAL REGION'S GREAT LAKES AND HEARTLAND DISTRICTS

by Tom Bentley

The Central Region's Great Lakes and Heartland Districts have been very busy and exciting places in recent months.

One very important milestone was reached when GMR's machine, an X-MP/24 S/N 131, attained 3000 hours without a hardware interrupt! To the best of our knowledge, this is the first machine in the Central Region to reach this goal. Our hardware crew of Dale Sheils, Dave Garman and Bill O'Dell are now shooting for a new record of 5000 hours hardware MTTI, and issue a challenge for anyone to try and catch them. On October 20, 1986, S/N 308 at Ford Motor Company became the second machine to top the 3000 hour MTTI mark. Looks like Detroit

machines are going to be the pacesetters. Is anyone willing to challenge them?

Another event of significant importance was the relocation of two CRAY-2 machines at the University of Minnesota to the new supercomputer facility near downtown Minneapolis. A move of this magnitude required very careful planning and organizing. Couple this with some major FCO's and wiring changes done by a crew from Chippewa Falls, and one can appreciate the efforts put forth by our entire Cray team. Thanks to excellent teamwork, the transition was made with relatively few problems.

Our people at the University of Illinois were busy preparing for the installation of their new machine. The machine arrived early on the morning of October 20, 1986. This was quite an

event at the University of Illinois since this represented a major upgrade from their existing system, an X-MP/24 S/N 114, to an X-MP/48 with a larger SSD and 16 DD-49's. We expect this to be operational and the old machine out the door by the time you read this.

Work continues as usual around the rest of the districts. Training is continuing at a rapid pace as we look forward to much growth in the northern portion of our region. The only recent personnel moves were Dave Londo to an RTS role in the Detroit District Office and Tom Bentley from Albuquerque to Detroit to assume the duties of District Engineering Manager.

We all look forward to the exciting times ahead as we continue to grow and set the standards of technical excellence for the supercomputer industry.

## SETTING THE STANDARD

by Doug Johnson

During a meeting about a year ago, the District Engineering Managers and Region Technical Support people got together to define a charter statement. The statement we came up with is: "We set the standard in quality system support." It's not flashy, but it is direct and to the point.

The word "support" as defined by Webster is to bear the weight of; to encourage or help. These definitions of support are consistent with our intent in the charter statement. In 1987 an increased emphasis will be placed on our technical support abilities.

This technical emphasis will have an impact on the way things are done in the field. It will bring a change in the number of Region Technical Support people we'll have and the level of support they provide. In addition, we will be establishing a module repair center in Boulder.

All these changes will hopefully strengthen our region and allow us to better fulfill the charter we have set for ourselves. However, changes often bring some uncertainty, and with uncertainty it is easy for mistakes to occur. If you find a mistake has occurred, please let us know. We would appreciate any constructive criticism you may have to offer.

## A NEW HOME FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MACHINES

by Lonny Isenberg

On August 29 Serial Numbers 2003 and 002 were powered down to prepare them for the move to the new Minnesota Supercomputer Center (M.S.C.). The actual preparation for the move started the day before when the customer turned the machine over to Cray personnel for hardware testing. The hardware status of the systems was checked before the move. In addition to the move, the wire mat on 2003 was upgraded to allow for more DD-49 disk drives.

On September 1, 002 was powered back on at the new center and went through a quality assurance test to make sure everything was operating correctly. Everything went well and the machine was turned back over to the customer on September 4.

At this time, 2003 was also powered back up. A quality assurance run was done on it before the disk upgrade. A few problems relating to the disk upgrade were found. The most serious problem was an open wire going to a memory module. This was quickly repaired by the wiring repair personnel from Chippewa Falls. After the remaining quality assurance testing was completed, the machine was turned over to software for the operating system installation on September 11. One problem in the foreground software was found and fixed. The system was turned over to the customer for production later in the afternoon the same day.

Many thanks for a job well done go to the installation crew from Chippewa Falls.

# Region People Newcomers



Repps Galusha

Rick Hill

**Repps Galusha**, Financial Analyst, Boulder Office, is originally from Texas and moved to Boulder in 1969. He has a daughter, Kathy, 9, who is from the Philippines. Repps received a B.S. in Finance from the University of Colorado. Prior to Cray, he worked for Neodata and was also in the Navy. In his spare time, Repps enjoys traveling, skiing, tennis, horseback riding and does consulting work for start-up businesses.

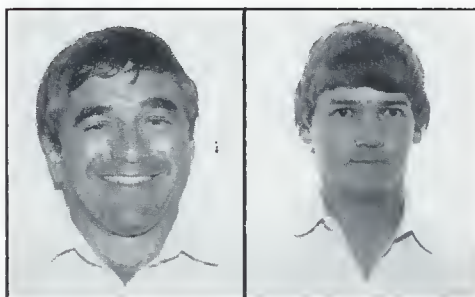
**Rick Hill**, Account Manager, Boulder Office, is originally from Virginia and now lives in Englewood, Colorado, with his wife, Debbie, and their son, Brandon, 9 months. Before Cray, he worked for Celerity Computing and Prime Computer. For fun, Rick likes to ski and hike.

**John Kaiser**, Analyst, GM, is a sports fanatic who grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but has been living in Utica for the past 20 years. He and his wife, Barbara, have 2 kids both in college: Sheri, 21 and Doug, 19. Before Cray, John worked for Electronic Data Systems.

**Darragh Nagle**, Analyst, AFWL, was a system programmer for the state of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico before joining Cray. He and his wife, Litha, have a daughter Bebhinn, 2 (pronounced "Bevin"—a Gaelic name meaning melodious lady). Darragh enjoys astronomy, physics, flying, scuba, folk guitar, and camping.

**Dan Pichelmann**, Engineer, SNLA, is a recent graduate of Mankato State University in Minnesota where he majored in Electronics Engineering Technology and Computer Science and minored in math and physics.

**David Dalton**, Engineer, MDC, comes to us from Control Data where he was the engineer-in-charge at Purdue University.



John Kaiser

Darragh Nagle

**Brian Dodd**, Analyst, Albuquerque Office, comes to us from Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has a B.S. degree in applied geophysics from UCLA. Brian and his wife, Kris, are the proud parents of Jessica Marie.

**Bob Enk**, Presales, Boulder Office, comes to us from half-way around the world—Aramco in Saudi Arabia. Previous to that he worked for Cray Research in the Central and Petroleum Regions.

**Ken Whites**, Analyst, MDC, comes to us from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he worked for Phillips Petroleum as a senior computer applications geologist.

**Michael Russell**, Account Manager, Minneapolis, enjoys the outdoors, all sports, sport cars, traveling, and house renovations. Before joining Cray, he worked for IBM in Marketing and received a B.A. in Business from the University of Minnesota. Michael and his wife, Marcia, have 2 kids: Megan, 2-1/2, and Ryan, 1 month.

**Thad Russell**, Engineer, LANL, comes to us straight out of the Western Wisconsin Technical Institute in La Crosse. In addition to being a student, Thad was also a laboratory technician.

**Bryan Fields**, Account Manager, Colorado Springs, comes to us from Falcon Systems, Inc. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from New York University and an M.B.A. from Wharton. Bryan enjoys skiing, water sports, baseball, and is also a certified AAU karate instructor.

**Bob Fralick**, Region Tech Support, Albuquerque Office, comes to us from Control Data where he had been since 1967 and before that the Army had him. Bob and his wife, Chii, have 2 children: Tanya, 17 and McCain, 14. When not fixing computers, Bob likes to fish, camp, and work in his garden.

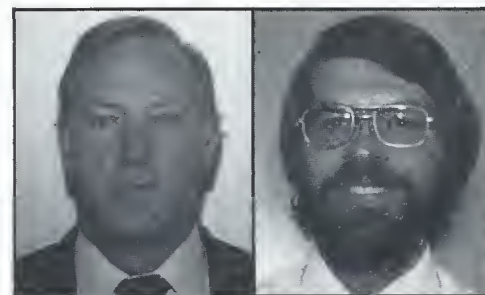


Michael Russell

Thad Russell

**Jeannine Van Dillen**, Secretary, St. Louis Sales Office, was born in Illinois, but has lived in Missouri since 1958. She and her husband, John, have 2 sons: Tom and Jer. Before joining us, Jeannine was executive secretary to Congressman Robert A. Young, 2nd District, Missouri, for over 9 years. She enjoys baseball and karate, and the entire family is involved in local community activities.

**Rona Kantor**, Secretary, Boulder Office, is originally from New York, and has resided in Longmont for 10 years with her daughters Adrienne, 15, and Ingrid, 11, and their five cats and two chickens! Prior to Cray, Rona worked as an office manager for a consulting geotechnical engineering firm in Boulder.



Bryan Fields

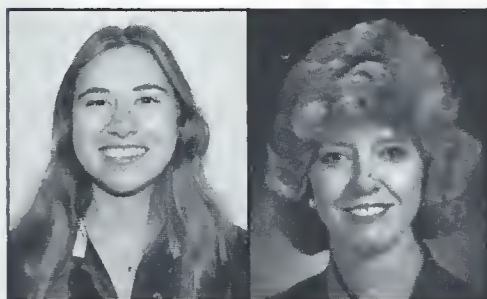
Bob Fralick



Jeannine Van Dillen



# Region People Newcomers



Karen Arp

Kelly Altman

Karen Arp, Field Engineering Secretary, Boulder Office, is a Boulder native. She has a B.A. in both Spanish and International Affairs from the University of Colorado (CU) and attended the University of Seville in Spain. Karen is a fanatical chess player and also loves to travel, read (especially science fiction), write, and backpack.

Kelly Altman, Account Manager, Chicago Sales Office, comes to us from Auto-Trol Technology where she was regional manager for the Midwest. She attended Florida Atlantic University and enjoys sailing.

Debra Barnes, Analyst, SIS, comes to us from the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she was a scientific P/A. She has a B.S. in Biological Science from Illinois State University and has recently finished her M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Michigan. Debra enjoys aerobics, music and programming her microcomputer.

Diane Barnwell, Accounting Clerk, Boulder Office, is originally from New Hampshire and is now a Boulder transplant along with her husband Bryan, who keeps them on their toes. Diane is working towards her B.S. in Accounting at Metro State College. When she isn't studying or watching Bryan, Diane enjoys cooking and photography.

Billie McComas, Engineer, LANL, received his technical training in the US Navy and from Control Data where he worked for the past 13 years before joining Cray. He and his wife, Jackie, have 4 kids: Deedra Lynn, 20, Dona LeAnn, 17, and the twins, Danica May and Donovan Scott, 5. Billie enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, and is an active member of Lions International and The American Legion.



Debra Barnes

Diane Barnwell

Michael Barry, Account Manager, St. Louis Sales Office, and his wife, Cathy, have 3 children: Tim, 5, Scott, 3, and Catie 1-1/2. Before Cray, he worked for Computer Vision and Control Data where he received extensive training in CAD/CAM systems. Michael enjoys time spent with his family, outdoor activities, water sports, boating, and skiing.

Sheila Bever, Engineer, SNLA, is originally from Wisconsin and has lived in Albuquerque for the past 7 years. Prior to Cray, she was a field engineer for 7 years with Control Data. For fun, Sheila enjoys outdoor activities including softball, soccer, and camping.

Carolyn Fernald, Training Secretary, Boulder Office, is a Boulder transplant from Beavercreek, Ohio, along with her husband, Cliff, and their children: David, 19, Sonya, 17, and Chantel, 16. Prior to Cray, she worked for MTL Systems, Inc. When not sending people to training, Carolyn enjoys hiking, camping, and needlecrafts.

Mike Moline, Engineer, AFGW, comes to us from Sperry where he was an electronic technician. Mike received his degree in Electronic Technology from St. Paul Vocational Institute.



Billie McComas

Michael Barry



Sheila Bever

Carolyn Fernald

Russ McKee, Account Manager, Detroit Office, lives in Minneapolis, but is originally from Detroit and "will now be able to come out of the closet as a life-long Detroit Tigers fan". He received his General Business degree from Wayne State and his M.B.A. from the University of Detroit. Prior to Cray, Russ was an Account Rep for Hewlett Packard. Russ and his wife, Connie, have a 4-year old, Mike, who keeps them young and tired. For fun Russ likes running, reading, softball, aerobics, theater and music. He says he plays tennis, but that's a matter of opinion!

## The Newest Newcomers

Rich Kendall  
Rosanne Balser  
Ken Bozak  
Bob Hurtado  
Tom Mortensen  
Rusty Brown  
Teresa Fenn Homan  
Gordon Konz  
Kathy Eudy  
Laura Wallace

Boy 4 lbs., 1 oz.  
Girl 8 lbs., 8 oz.  
Boy 7 lbs., 1-3/4 oz.  
Girl 8 lbs.  
Boy 7 lbs., 10 oz.  
Boy 7 lbs., 14 oz.  
Boy 8 lbs., 11 oz.  
Boy 8 lbs., 11 oz.  
Boy 2 lbs., 10 oz.  
Girl 5 lbs., 10 oz.

Kansas City  
AFGW  
AFGW  
LANL  
Albuquerque  
NCAR  
Boulder  
Ford  
MDC  
Boulder

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